<NEWS TICKER>

EGD

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a0038reute

u i PM-VENEZUELA-COUP 02-04 0101

PM-VENEZUELA-COUP =2 CARACAS

Witnesses heard shooting begin at about 12:15 a.m. at the presidential residence of La Casona in eastern Caracas.

A resident near the building reported seeing a ''group of persons'' storming the compound just after midnight. Automatic weapons fire and explosions were heard throughout the South American capital for the next 90 minutes.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

In his address, Andres Perez asked the Venezuelan people to have confidence and faith in democracy. He called on all sectors of society, military and civilian, to support his government and remain calm.

MORE

Call white house Operator, Bush + Perez (1) Stef with Perez (5)

Linda Smith

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
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